

Dear Bishop Hyde,

It was nice to talk to you again by telephone. However, I was again distressed to learn of your health condition. I do wish that you would take care of yourself. Of course, the strain of what our mutual acquaintance is doing is aggravating enough in itself without the added burden of ill health. I shall continue to remember you in all my prayers that you speedily recover.

As I indicated to you, several telephone calls have been received in New Orleans. Primarily, in so far as I can learn, these calls were directed to either Mr. Banister or to Mr. Gill. There may have been calls to others. I do not know. Would you know anything on this point?

As I told you Mr. Banister telephoned to Mr. Virgil Peterson, who is the director of the Crime Commission for Chicago. Mr. Peterson had received a visit from our friend and a Fr. Mario Vites, Vieties, or Veritas. This priest was supposed to be rector of St. Hilary's in Philadelphia. However, the most thorough search failed to reveal any such name or any such church.

The story relaying their experiences was this. They had apparently gone to either the States Attorney or the Attorney General for Illinois trying to have Archbishop Marchenna, Bishop Fairfield (never heard of him) and a Bishop Brown (never heard of him either) all declared phonies and frauds. However, they were advised, so it is reported, that their only recourse was in civil court by way of a "quo warranto". Quo warranto is a procedure for settling family disputes, so to speak, within organizations. In other words, the Chicago authorities could not assist our acquaintance and his companion in whatever it was that they hoped to accomplish.

Allegedly you were described as also being a phony and a fraud. The charges are typical, are they not? Seems as though we have heard this somewhere before. Then the usual homosexual inferences were made, to make sure that the pattern ran true to form. Why, oh why, is that the only thing these people can think of? Of course it is the worst kind of smear and it is identical with that used by the Communists! I wonder if the reason for using that type of smear does not have a psychological explanation?

I believe I spoke too soon on the verifaxing since the originals are all currently on file in proceedings before the Eastern Air Lines Board. I did find a copy of a verified affidavit which I have enclosed. Would you return it when you have studied it?

Here are the so-called charges and their refutation:

Criminal homosexual charges
alleging one Eric Crouchet
as the "victim"

Crouchet denies it and has
so testified.

That I was under psychiatric
treatment by a Dr. A.K.
Gardner.

Dr. Bardner turns out to be a
female psychologist who never
heard of me and is threatening
suit because her name was used.

That I was kicked out of St.
Charles for emotional in-
stability.

St. Charles says it was for
"brashness and theological
disagreements"

That I failed, in the employment
application blank to state I
had once been employed by
Rocky River High School

They claim they never heard
of me.

That I belonged to a gang of
delinquents called the
"Omnipotents"

Nobody ever heard of them

That I was excommunicated from
the Church

We know all about this one

That I help kids run away from
home

The named individuals are adults
who testified it wasn't so.

That the American Medical Assoc.
threatened me with prosecution
for practising medicine without
a license

The Association claims it never
heard of me much less had a
complaint about me.

That I once gave a speech attacking
the Eisenhower administration

I sure did.

This will give you an idea of what I have had to contend with. The criminal charges were promptly dropped like a hot potato once the so-called State Witness found out about it and raised hob with the District Attorney. But, the damage they intended to do had been done. This is an important point because if the same pattern is directed at you there will be total destruction of your reputation.